CAMP ON... AT CRYSTAL LAKE

JUST when you thought it was safe to go out in your row-boat, FRIDAY THE 13TH PART 6 will soon be among us and what's more Paramount are promising threatening to take the series right up to part 13. I kid you not.For those who are new to this everyday story of genocidal folk, here's a run-down of what's been happening in the first five films of a series whose solid story-lines and continuity have become legend.

A bunch of vacationing kids ignored the warnings of the local crazy galoot about Camp Crystal Lake and had sharp instruments inserted in every conceivable nook, cranny and orifice, including a spectacular Saint Sebastian job on Bing Crosby's son Harry.And so it was that FRIDAY THE 13TH (1980)was unleashed onto the world. The culprit (in the film, was eventually revealed as one Mrs. Vorhees, whose son Jason had drowned while camp counsellors were busy fornicating. Alice, the sole survivor, was understandably peeved by all this and decapitated Mrs V. with a spade. Taking a boat out on Crystal Lake, Alice was dragged down to Davey Jones' locker by the lad himself, Jason the mossy mongoloid, in what turned out to be a dream sequence. Or was it? No way Jose! - Jason had not drowned at all. Instead of going home he had decided to spend a few years slushing around a lake, from which he witnessed his Mom's demise.

A short time later (FRIDAY THE 13TH PART 2, 1981) having grown alarmingly and been cured of his Downes syndrome (which was initially concealed from the audience as he strolled inconspicuously into town with a spud bag over his head), Jason came a-callin' on Alice, who discovered Mrs. V's noggin along with the silver tops in her fridge shortly before Jason picked her nose with a screwdriver.

Retrieving the old girl's bonce to put back in his woodland shrine, he presumably got the next Greyhound bus back to Camp Crystal Lake, the second re-opening of which had drawn the predictable influx of dope-smoking sex maniacs. Local crazy galoots were garotted, paraplegics macheted in the head and pushed down the stairs in their wheelchairs, and two hep-cats making out were shishkebabed in a scene filched from Mario Bava's ANTEFATOO/BLOODBATH. The CARRIE rip-off...er, hommage from the end of the first film became an ongoing situation in the second, and to the surprise of everyone in the audience (except those with upward of three brain cells) each time the characters relaxed, Jason came leaping through the window/down the chimney/out of a Christmas cracker. In the process he accumulated wounds that would have decimated the Red Army but his recuperative powers, inherited from HALLOWEEN'S Michael Myers, saw him through.

Next time out (FRIDAY THE 13TH PART 3 3D 1982) Jason had reverted to the bald Mongoloid look (though most of the time modestly hiding behind a hockey goalie's mask) and had the luxury of 3D with which to highlight his gory handiwork. Among the expected 3D silly shots of washing flapping and yo-yos yo-yoing, Jason managed to fire a harpoon into the audience, squeeze eyeballs out of their sockets into our laps and neatly halve a smart-Alec walking on his hands, till an axe in his mask cramped his style. Obviously a fan of PART 1, the sole survivor jumped into a boat and pushed it out onto the lake. Jason, grinning madly, played peek-a-boo in the windows of a lake-side house until Mrs. Vorhees, seemingly well-recovered from her decapitation, jumped out of that damn lake.

In FRIDAY THE 13TH THE FINAL CHAPTER (1984) Jason was taken from the barn in which he had apparently died to hospital, where he set about reducing overmanning with the ferocity of an Edwina Currie, before zipping back to Camp Crystal Lake to sort out yet another bunch of depraved teens. This was pretty much the same mixture as before except for the fact that the victims were more nubile than

BREAKING AND ENTERING THE VORHEES WAY IN THIS SCENE FROM FRIDAY THE 13TH PART 3 3D

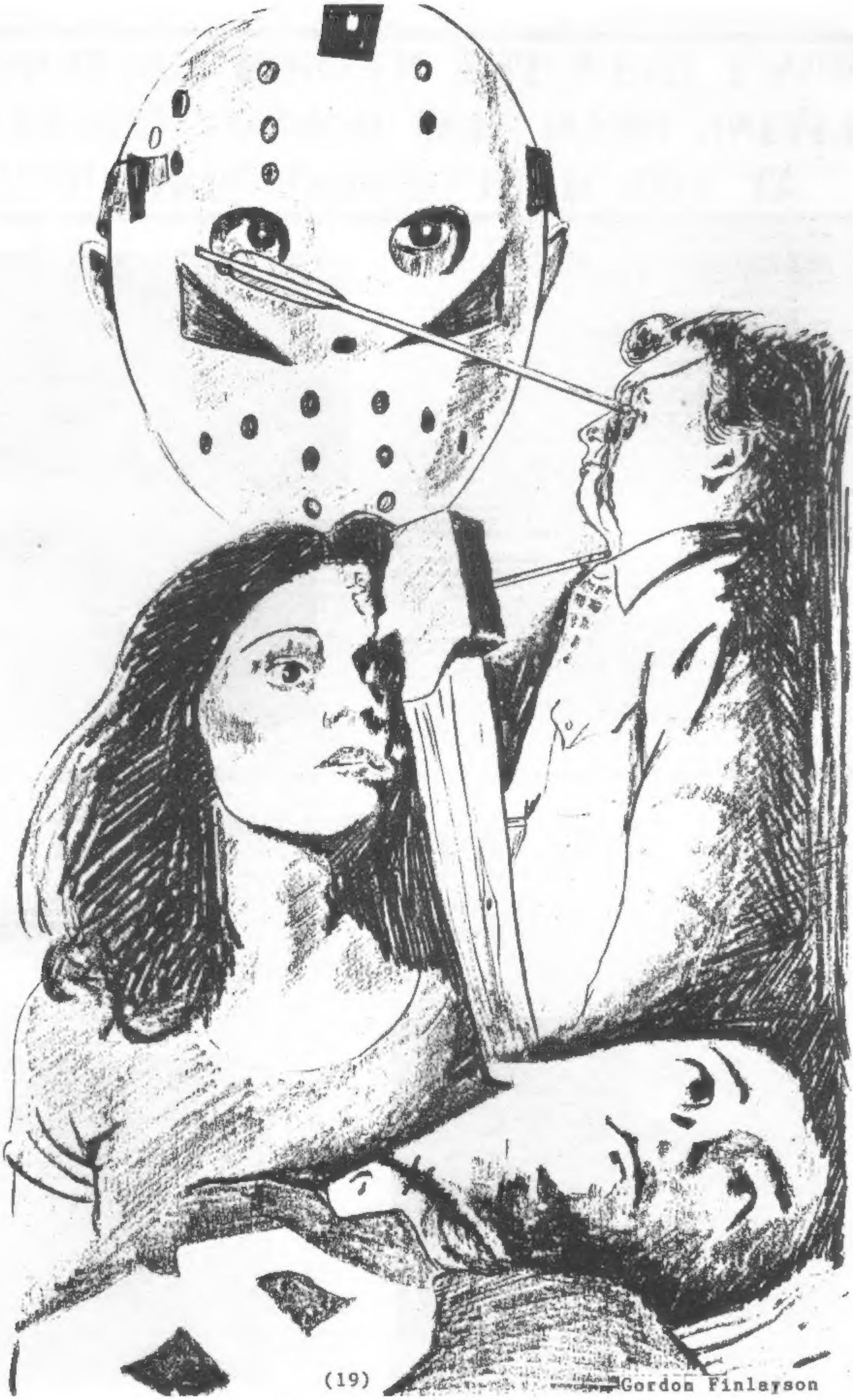
HE'S BACK: THE MAN IN THE MASK IN THIS SCENE FROM FRIDAY THE 13TH PART V A NEW BEGINNING

ever and included a pair of identical twins for those who like that sort of thing.

The apparently indestructable Jason eventually kicked the bucket because some insufferable prat called Little Tommy shaved his head and mioced around the house mumbling "Jason - remember?" A likely story!

Jason figured only briefly in FRIDAY THE 13TH A NEW BEGINNING (1985), rising from his coffin (worms wiggling merrily in the eye-holes of his hockey mask) to mutilate some grave desecrators in Tommy's nightmare. Tommy was by now residing on a funny farm and head-cases replaced loose-living juveniles as axe/knife/chainsaw fodder. The incomprehensible "plot" was predicated on the dubious theory that anyone who witnesses an axe-killing will become an axe killer, so the suspects increased geometrically as the film progressed. The most memorable part of this one was the scene in which a Prince lookalike sitting on a toilet sang a duet with his girlfriend before..... Oh the joys of Camp Crystal Lake . Roll on Parts 6, 7, 8....

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY



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